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Remarks

In view of the above amendments to the claims and the following discussion, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102. Furthermore, all of the claims now pending in the application satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

OBJECTIONS

A. Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings under 37 C. F. R. § 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In particular, the Examiner indicates that the terms "reference areas" recited in claims 7-8 are not shown in the drawings. Applicants have amended claims 7-8 to remove the terms "reference areas" therefrom.

In view of these amendments to claims 7-8, the basis for the Examiner's objection to the drawings has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS

A. 35 U. S. C. § 112

1. Claims 7-8

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject

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matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, The Examiner indicates that both claims 7-8 include the phrase "first and second reference areas" not described in the specification. Applicants have amended claims 7-8 to delete the phrase "first and second reference areas" therefrom.

Additionally, for claim 8 the Examiner indicates that this claim includes the phrases at line 5 "which cannot be set of the turntable" and at line 12 "which can be set of the turntable" which are not understood. Applicants have amended claim 8 to more clearly indicate that the turntable includes "at least a first part, which is fixed in relation to an axis of rotation of the motor shaft, and a second part, whose inclination and/or position in relation to the motor shaft is adjustable".

In view of these amendments to claims 7-8, the basis for the Examiner's rejection thereto has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner's rejection of claims 7-8 pursuant to 35 U. S. C. § 112 be withdrawn.

B. 35 U. S. C. § 102

1. Claims 1-5 and 9 are not anticipated by Bierhoff

Claims 1-5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bierhoff (U. S. Patent 6,802,072 issued October 5, 2004). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a turntable for a drive for storage media in disc form, with a bore for receiving a motor shaft of a drive motor (see, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 8, lines 4-6). The diameter of the bore is greater, at least in a partial region of the bore, than the diameter of the motor shaft, so that there is a gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft and an inclination and/or a position of the turntable is adjustable in relation to an axis of rotation of the motor shaft (see, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 8, lines 6-22).

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Bierhoff discloses a turntable 2 for a drive for storage media in disc form, with a bore 8 for receiving a motor shaft 12 of a drive motor, wherein the diameter d1, d2 of the bore 8 is greater, at least in a partial region of the bore 8, than the diameter of the motor shaft 12, so that there is a gap 16 between the wall of the bore 8 and the motor shaft 12 (see, Bierhoff at FIG. 1 and column 3, lines 23-42).

Contrary to the present invention, however, the inclination and/or the position of the turntable 2 in Bierhoff is clearly not adjustable in relation to an axis of rotation of the motor shaft 12. In Bierhoff, at column 3, lines 45 to 48 it is explicitly stated that the edges 9 and 10 create a clamping connection with the shaft 12. Only during assembly, before the shaft 12 is fitted through the second edge 10, a small inclination of the shaft 12 is possible. However, this inclination only simplifies assembly of the turntable 2, as indicated in column 3 lines 51 to 65. It does not offer any possibility to adjust the inclination and/or the position of the turntable 2. As soon as the shaft 12 is fitted through the second edge 10, the inclination and the position of the turntable 2 are completely and unchangeably set. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Bierhoff.

Claim 8 recites is a method claim reciting similar subject matter to that of claim 1. For the same reasons as detailed above for claim 1, claim 8 is also patentable over Bierhoff. Claims 2-5 depend directly, or indirectly from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 are also patentable over Bierhoff.

2. Claims 1-9 are not anticipated by Hamatani

Claims 1-5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hamatani (U. S. Patent 4,723,648 issued February 9, 1988). The applicants submit that these claims are not anticipated by this reference.

Claim 1 is directed to a turntable for a drive for storage media in disc form,

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with a bore for receiving a motor shaft of a drive motor (see, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 8, lines 4-6). The diameter of the bore is greater, at least in a partial region of the bore, than the diameter of the motor shaft, so that there is a gap between the wall of the bore and the motor shaft and an inclination and/or a position of the turntable is adjustable in relation to an axis of rotation of the motor shaft (see, FIG. 1 and the specification at page 8, lines 6-22).

Hamatani discloses a turntable 24 for a drive for storage media 26 in disc form, with a bore 24e for receiving a motor shaft 20 of a drive motor, wherein the turntable 24 comprises at least a first part 24 (see, Hamatani at FIG. 2 and column 2, lines 37-39). It could be argued that the support 25 constitutes a second part of the turntable (see, Hamatani at FIG. 2 and column 2, lines 39-44). However, the support 25 is not related in any way to the rotation of the turntable 24 and is clearly not mounted on the motor shaft 20 (see, Hamatani at FIG. 2 and column 2, lines 44-45). In addition, as described above for claim 1, the inclination and/or the position of the turntable 24 is not adjustable in relation to an axis of rotation of the motor shaft 20. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Hamatani.

Independent claims 6-8 are method claims reciting similar subject matter to that of claim 1. For the same reasons as detailed above for claim 1, claims 6-8 are also patentable over Hamatani. Claims 2-5 and 9 depend directly, or indirectly from claim 1. For the same reasons as stated above for claim 1, claims 2-5 and 9 are also patentable over Hamatani.

CONCLUSION

The solutions according to applicants claims 1-9 solve the problem of tilt adjustment. In many cases the tilt of the turntable is caused by manufacturing tolerances of the turntable, and not by a tilt or positional error of the motor shaft. In such cases it is possible to compensate for these tolerances by making the diameter of the bore greater than the diameter of the motor shaft at least in a partial region of the bore. The motor shaft is deemed to constitute a reference for

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adjustment. In contrast, both Bierhoff and Hamatani rely on the assumption that the bore does not have any relevant manufacturing tolerances.

Thus, the applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U. S. C. § 102.

Furthermore, all of the claims now pending in the application satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Consequently, the applicants believe that all of the claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,


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